

the holidays that her sisters' interposition in the care of their sick father allowed her Thus, September 1891 finds her attending the Trades Union Congress at Newcastle, and, after the "hurry-scurry of that week," saying, in her Diary

" I have drudged in offices on records, or trudged to interview after interview The work is stupendous and, as yet, the material does not shape itself I do little but work and sleep and then work again My fingers, cramped with hours of note-taking, threaten revolt, and my brain whirls with constitutions, executives, general councils, delegate meetings, district delegates, branches, lodges, socials, with objections to piece-work and 'subbing,' demarcation disputes—until all the organs of my body and my mind threaten to form into one federated Trade Union and strike against the despotism of the will "

In a few days, she writes to Sidney a letter interesting in itself, and significant as showing the driving impulse easily forgotten by the outsider because, in the insider, it is so strong and constant that it seldom comes to the surface

"I get so sick of these ugly details of time-work and piece-work, over-time, and shop-rent, and the squalid misfortunes of defaulting branch officers or heckling by unreasonable members Who would choose to imprison the intellect in this smelly kitchen of social life if it were not for the ever-present \* thirty, per cent' (Charles Booth's statistics of those who were below the line of poverty), with the background of the terrible East End streets ? The memory of the low, cunning, brutal faces of the loafers and cadgers who hang about the Mint haunts me when I feel inclined to put down the Trade Union Reports and take up a piece of good literature "

To this heroic wail, he at once replied

"You are not fit to write this big book alone, you would never get through it When I really get to work on it, you will find me not only a help instead of a hindrance but also *the* indispensable help which will turn a good project into a big book "

So it was to prove The book—for the two volumes are really one book—is not only big in its comprehensiveness and sweep, it is big in another sense It was highly original in its subject matter Here, their success tends to mask